Florida Wildlife Fishing Citations are available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the following freshwater game fish of the prescribed size requirements:

**SPECIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>8 pounds or larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Pickerel</td>
<td>4 pounds or larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill (Bream)</td>
<td>1.5 pounds or larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smeltcracker</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Crappie</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Breast</td>
<td>1 pound or larger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Eligibility Requirements**

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fly-spinning, or bait-casting tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

Application for a Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation must be made within 10 days of the date fish was caught. Application must be made on the prescribed form as shown on this page. (Requests for additional forms should be addressed to: Florida Wildlife, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.)

The receipt of any and all photographs pertaining to the registered catch, including the applicant and the fish, will be appreciated by the editors for use in Florida Wildlife Magazine.

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ARCHERY HUNTS

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Guns, pistols, or other firearms will not be permitted on the hunts.
2. Bows must be capable of casting a 1 oz. arrow a minimum of 150 yards. Arrows shall have well-sharpened steel broadheads blades of not less than ⅛ nor more than ⅛ inches width.
3. No person shall load or shoot a bow from any moving automobile or other vehicle.
4. Game showing evidence of having been shot with a firearm shall be considered illegal game.
5. Legal game can be transported only during the special archery season and for a period of three days immediately following the latest open archery season.
6. No person shall have in his possession or under control any type of poisoned arrow or any explosive tip.
7. No dogs allowed on the hunt area during the archery season.
8. Any rule or regulation that governs the special hunts on the Ocala or Eglin Wildlife Management Area and is not in conflict with these special archery hunt rules shall be in effect on the Ocala.
9. Use of Cross Bows prohibited.

OCALA ARCHERY HUNT

Hunt Area: Beginning at Davenport Landing and proceeding west and south to Eureka Bridge, the boundary is the Oklawaha River; proceeding east from Eureka Bridge, the boundary is Forest Road 9 (State Rd. 316) to its intersection with Forest Road 65, proceeding north from this intersection, the boundary follows Forest Road 65 to the intersection of the River Road; thence northwest on the River Road to Davenport Landing.

Open Season: October 11 to October 31, hunting permitted every day.

Legal Game: Deer, turkey, quail, squirrel, rabbit, bear, and unprotected wildlife. No hunter can take more than two of any combination of deer and bear. Game taken on this hunt will be considered part of the hunter’s annual bag and the deer and turkey must be tagged as provided in State Regulations.

Permit: A special archery hunt permit costing $5.00 will be required in addition to regular license requirements. Sale of this permit will be handled by the Hunt Supervisor at Hunt Headquarters and by the County Judge of Marion County.

Special Hunt Rules: Hunters must check in and out of check stations located at Hunt Headquarters at Junction of Forest Road 88 and State Road 316. Hunters may check in beginning at 8:00 A.M. October 10 and must check out by 6:00 P.M. October 11.

EGLIN AIR BASE

ARCHERY HUNT

Hunt Subject to Emergency Restrictions of USAF Officials

Hunt Area: As designated by USAF officials lying within the area bounded on the south by St. Rd. 98 and St. Rd. 20, on the north by the Yellow River, and U.S. 90, on the west by St. Rd. 87, and on the east by St. Rd. 83.

Open Season: October 16 to November 2, hunting permitted every day.

Legal Game: Wild hogs and all other legal game except turkey, bear, beaver, alligator, otter, porcupine, and unprotected wildlife. Deer and wild hog hunting on this hunt will be considered part of the hunter’s annual bag and deer must be tagged as provided in state regulations and with Air Force tag (if before being removed from kill location.

Permit: A special Archery Hunt permit costing $5.00 or a Composite Permit costing $5.00 will be required in addition to the regular license requirements of this permit. This permit will be handled by the Air Force through the Forestry Section at Jackson Community, Niceville, Florida, on Highway 98.

Check Stations: Hunters must check in and out of the hunt area every day through Jackson Community, Niceville, Florida.

LONGER DOVE SEASON

Possession Limit Increased

Florida’s migratory hard hunters have been granted an additional 30 days dove hunting, and an increase in the possession limit, according to regulations established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission have approved these regulations.

The dove hunting season will be 60 days, as compared to the previous 50 days. Hunting will be allowed statewide from 12:00 noon until sunset during two periods. The early dove hunting period will consist of 30 half-days from October 4 through November 2, except Aligator Point, Franklin County, which will be closed. The second period will consist of 35 half-days from November 27 through December 31 state wide.

Possession limit for doves was increased from 10 to 20. The daily limit remains at 10.

Woodcock season will run 30 consecutive days from December 13 through January 11. Bag limits remain at four per day, with eight in total possession.

OSCEOLA - APALACHICOLA BEAR HUNTS

September 29 thru October 26

Open Season: September 29 through October 26. Two three-day hunts per week for a total of eight hunts during the special season, in each area. Legal game: Bear, no limit on fox, skunk, oppossum, bobcat, civet cat (spotted skunk), rabbit, killing cub bear prohibited.

Permit: A special permit is required in addition to license requirements to participate in the bear hunts. The fee for this permit is $50.00 per hunt. Permits for Osceola Hunt may be secured from Regional Manager, P. O. Box 908, Lake City, for Apalachicola Hunt from Regional Janitor, P. O. Box 576, Panama City. Hunt parties must be limited to 17 persons except upon approval of hunt supervisor.

Special Hunt Rules: Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Hunting days in one week may be changed by approval of the Hunt Supervisor. No Sunday hunting.

A qualified Hunt Supervisor will accompany each hunting party. Only one shoulder weapon (bi-powered rifle or shotgun not smaller than 16 gauge) plus one side arm will be permitted on each hunter. Rifle ammunition must be hollow point soft nose type. Hunting with full automatic weapons is prohibited.

Hunting parties may camp in the National Forest at locations approved by the Forest Service Ranger in charge of the Region. Each hunting party will report kill or kills to the Hunt Supervisor before leaving area.

Application for permission to shoot rifle must be filed with Regional Manager by September 15. Drawings will be held to determine period and party to be permitted.

OCTOBER 1958 ISSUE

FLORIDA HUNTING

THIS MONTH’S COVER

By Wallace Hughes

Weighing in at something like three ounces, it requires a full three ounces of the Sora’s to make a worthwhile kill. Incidentally, the most abundant and the most abundant of Florida’s marsh birds in the marsh lop and share of the marsh lop are the marsh lop and share of the marsh lop and share of the marsh lop.

But whether your idea of fit game for your shotgun skill runs to turkeys and Canadeese, or to teal, doves and duckers, don’t low rate the Sora. With the usually brisk full breeze rustling across the salt marsh plus his own built-in, hustle, his three ounces of get up and go—a fit subject to butt away some of the summer’s collection of trigger finger and shooting eye rust for tougher targets in the hunting days ahead.

Marsh Hen Hunting Season News and Regulations on Pages 12 and 13
The Florida fisherman is perhaps favored over all other Sunshine State anglers. In fact, this sun-browned user of the long rod is probably favored over all anglers anywhere. Even in this piscatorial heaven, however, all lures are not created equal, and it is common for even experienced fishermen to experience less-than-desirable results with their long rods. This may be due to a variety of factors, including the type of tackle used, the skill of the angler, and the conditions of the water.

The author of the piece, Chuck Schilling, discusses the importance of proper technique when using long rods, emphasizing the need for a careful cast and a proper retrieve. He also highlights the importance of selecting the right tackle for the job, whether it be for fly fishing, spinning, or casting. Schilling's advice is aimed at helping anglers improve their fishing skills and increase their success rates.

In conclusion, the article provides valuable insights for anyone interested in improving their long rod fishing skills. Whether you are a seasoned angler or just starting out, this piece offers useful tips and strategies that can help you catch more fish and enjoy your time on the water.
Because of a general upsurge in the need for public conservation education, the afternoon program was filled with the enlightening and public as regard our precious water, education in schools and conservation, the improved means of public, entertainment in the future, and too long delayed publicity acclaim the high generosity in the program of the State of Florida.

The Saturday night session was taken up with the consideration of recreational boating and how to foster it, and a study of possible need for a program control to assure the recreational boaters and fishermen.

The Sunday morning session will cover the usual affiliates business, annual meeting of the board of directors, and other representatives sit down to rectify past failures and future hope.

The Florida Wildlife Federation is attempting to bring about a vast PILLAGE OF CONSERVATIONISTS to Tallahassee where the Conservation Council, made up of all interested citizen groups and the Intergovernmental Council of state and federal agencies, will meet with the Federation to dwell upon the understanding of the conservation problems of the state in order, that, if possible, Florida may be saved from the experience of the rest of the country. The program outline is as follows:

September 19, at 9:30 A.M., the Florida Conservation Council will meet in the Florida Hotel, the host hotel, to the session, and the Florida Conservation Council will hold all-day session there. The two groups will ultimately fuse for deliberations later in the day.

Saturday night the committee meeting of the Southeastern Fisheries, the Federation, and Outdoor Writers convene, and afterward, at the same hour will be conducted a "beef session" where various groups of sportmen may express their pleasures and displeasures, their hopes and fears, and offer constructive criticism to the program of the state agencies. Also, at this session will be initiated the Florida Safety Program of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The Saturday morning session will elaborate on the question of Constitutional Revision as your president and the chairman of the House Committee on Revision expound before the convention. These talks are to be followed by C. H. "Pink" Guter, of Washington, D.C., concerning comparison of the conservation facilities of the State of Florida with those of the rest of the nation, and offering the views of experience as a means of recommending to Florida how one might offer the best for the future.

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Added to the above work will be a social program as follows: Friday night a Dutch-tea bid dinner at the Hotel Florida bringing Florida seafoods, and Saturday night, the usual annual banquet of the Federation to which everyone welcome and urged to attend as it will be addressed by the Governor, the Director of Conservation from Washington, D.C. In addition to this is Saturday for the ladies will be a morning cooking clinic where Mrs. Alherson of the Department of Conservation will elaborate on Florida seafoods and show their use, and a tour of the Capitol and the new Sears Roebuck Store in the afternoon.

Certainly such a program will draw many people from the reaches of the state, and to them, and more of the area closely populating Tallahassee, I hope all will read this article will spend a visitable time between now and Saturday 19 in persuading friends and neighbors that this could possibly be the most valuable week of the year.
muzzle flashes

IT IS SAID THAT men who are boys at heart always remain boys, and possibly that is one reason why, among our male population, there is a spreading interest in being adept at fast draw with a handgun.

Undoubtedly, other influences are the stimulating fast draw sequences of such currently popular Western series as Gunsmoke, Restless Gun, Wells Fargo and Have Gun, Will Travel, and recent-year introductions of inexpensive to shoot 22 caliber models of the famous Colt Single Action 45—the gunfighter's favorite—by Colt, Ruger and other handgun manufacturers.

So great is the interest in the fast draw that, besides the thousands of individual fans, already there are more than 140 such clubs operating in the United States, with new groups coming into the picture all the time. Seemingly, each community has its own fast-gun favorite, and there is considerable talk about holding a national competition for $10,000 prize money and an entry fee payable before too long—the question of who is "the fastest gun alive" may be definitely decided.

Certainly considered by many to be top-gun among the fast draw experts is Arvo Ojala, of Hollywood, California, private coach of the movie and TV stars. He can slap leather in 1/60th of a second—which you'll have to admit is almost unbelievably fast. Ojala claims he has the world's fastest draw.

So many shooters outside movie and TV circles have asked Ojala about the secrets of making a fast draw that the Hollywood expert has had a camaraderie around his moves for a concisely-written, profusely illustrated booklet, "The Secrets of The Fast Draw"—available from the Lambert Company, Box 27-B, Mount Vernon, New York, for $25c. (Your two bits will win you a fascinating, instructive booklet.)

A serious challenger of Ojala's claim to the world's fastest draw is Joe Bodrie, River Rouge, Michigan, who believes the fast draw title should be based on both fast draw and accuracy, and who is willing to match his draw against any opponent or timing machine. In timed tests, Bodrie has fired two accurate shots from a single action handgun in a total of only .45 of a second! Bodrie's shooting technique also emphasizes the value of the lightning draw—but never at the expense of accuracy. . . . There is a marked difference in the two techniques, as exemplified by Ojala and Bodrie.

In his public demonstrations and in his training of movie and TV personalities, Ojala's fast draw technique is largely based on speed of draw and split-second firing of blank cartridges, which film move and TV objectives admirably. Bodrie's technique, on the other hand, is based on a slightly slower gun combination with such factors as reaction time and firing accuracy. On signal, Bodrie believes in making a fast draw that hits a chosen target; any fast draw that results in a miss is a failure, from Bodrie's viewpoint.

Of the two techniques, this Gun Editor gives nod of preference to that of Bodrie. From experience, he knows that there is far more exultation and pleasure to be had from making a fast draw and then firing a glass bottle target than merely drawing and firing in competition with a stop-watch. Greatest pleasure is standing alongside a good-drawing friend and, on given signal getting off a fast shot from feet away and second, and integrating the perfect deliberate, relaxed combined with timing, with hitting the target or mount mental concept. . . . Becoming a proficient draw, several fundamentals are:

First requisition is an exacting, quiet, well-balanced, natural shooting, preferably a Colt Single Action, which seems to work best with the trigger finger alongside your palm to prevent accidental firing. Last three fingers grip the gun butt, third finger glides down behind bore and pressure on the hammer while gun is being drawn.

To obtain a perfectly straight from a machine-made product, it gives approximately the same grip as the six-gun's hammer to bring it to full cock position while the gun is still clearing the holster (trigger finger kept off the trigger and outside its metal guard). This Gun Editor prefers to withhold the hammer cocking phase until the gun has definitely cleared the holster and has begun its forward movement. For this reason, instead of the usual, safer method, for cocking the hammer of a single action revolver automatically turns the cylinder and brings a live round of ammunition in firing position.

Here in Florida several fast draw aspirants have shot themselves in leg or foot when, trying for a top rate of firing speed, their cocked gun accidentally fired before fully clearing holsters. Also, study of the sequence photos of expert Joe Bodrie, Burt Lancaster, Audie Mur- phy and Glenn Ford (the last three, although movie actors, are fast-draw experts in their own right) will usually show that the experts execute a fast draw with one foot only slightly forward of the other and that generally the foot is on opposite side of the gun hand.

The only safe way to learn to be adept at the fast draw is first practice—practice—practice—with a revolving gun, analyzing each hand, body and gun movement and initially being conscious of related body and gun positions. When all motions have become almost automatic, like driving a car, then shooting with live ammunition can be tried, but again without any attempt to achieve blinding movement speed. Practice will add the gun handling dexterity and confidence that must precede speed, if safe, accurate shooting is to be done.

Strictly from the standpoint of self-preservation, the average person will never be as skilled as a trigger snapper, trigger, gun wanders and foreign-born personalized may.

Elmer Keith, a contemporary gun editor who literally lives with a handgun, several times has had to use it other than sport. On one occasion while ashore, he was thrown and dragged by a wild horse and could have been killed had he not been able to draw his handgun and shoot the horse while being dragged. Andy Allen used a combination fast draw and Colt Single Action revolver to stop a riled coyote that leaped at him from a ledge, and Herbert Bradley's handgun skill saved him from a big rattler he encountered, face high and ready to strike, when climbing a sandbank.

With the hammer in left cock position, the thumb slips back to help grip the gun butt. The trigger finger goes to the right of the bolster and the index finger glides alongside it, the index finger pressing the trigger. When the gun is level, as shown in the left photo, the trigger finger is concentrically turned into the gun-guard, and trigger is squeezed (right). Your knees are slightly bent for your own natural balance.
The September 13, opening date for the shooting of marsh hens gives Florida hunters a chance for an early

SHOT GUN WARML-UP

Photo by Jake Johnson
Marsh hens hunting—East Coast style. On the Atlantic side of the state, the high tides of the fall season flood the marshes. During this period, when water has drastically reduced the amount of cover, marsh hens are easily flushed, offer excellent shooting to pole boat quanner.

T\HE REGULAR HUNTING SEASON on
sallinules and rails (marsh hens) will open on September 13 and run for 65 consecutive days, until
at sunset on November 18. Shooting hours will be from onehalf hour before sunrise to onehalf hour after sunset. The daily bag limit on gallinules and rails (except sora rails) remains the same as last season; 15 per day on a total possession limit of 36. The daily bag limit and the possession limit on soras also remain unchanged; 25 per day and 25 in possession.

The open season is one day shorter than the previous season and is five days less than the maximum of 76 days allowed by Federal regulations. The reason for dropping this five day from the total allowable period is the lack of suitable high tides on the Atlantic marshes during the top of the season. Despite increased interest in marsh hen hunting on the Gulf marshes, most of the rail hunting continues to be concentrated on Florida's northeast tidal areas where an extra high tide is necessary to flood the marsh sufficiently to produce satisfactory hunting conditions.

March hens are not especially difficult targets. They labor up from cover and require some distance to get up a full head of steam. Once under way, especially when boosted along by a brisk tail wind, they move fast enough to call for skillful gun handling. The best part of marsh hen hunting is the fact that the season opens in early fall, offers quanners an opportunity to work out the kinks before general season opens.

Photo by Wallace Hughes
Hunters take clipper roll from Labrador retriever "Shane" owned by James Floyd, Panama City marsh hen enthusiast. Crippled birds are difficult to locate without a good dog.

Photo by Bill Rancka
Smoke in a roll (the marsh hen well). The slender form enables the bird to wade in its way through rank marsh grass with the finesse of a skilled field runner.

Photo by Bill Rancka
Hunters take clipper roll from Labrador retriever "Shane" owned by James Floyd, Panama City marsh hen enthusiast. Crippled birds are difficult to locate without a good dog.

Photo by Wallace Hughes
Hunters take clipper roll from Labrador retriever "Shane" owned by James Floyd, Panama City marsh hen enthusiast. Crippled birds are difficult to locate without a good dog.
Old Time Magic On The St. Lucie

By GEORGE X. SAND

I wanted angling thrills like the old days when fish were so ornery they'd jump into the boat.

"I wouldn't even try to explain," I said. "The sport is too long.

Strangely enough, this had all begun a month before—and a hundred miles away from here. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in part by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had been collaborating for several years now on a plan that promised to produce the largest controlled harvest and fishing preserve in this country. Engineered to impound in three freshwater conservation areas the heavy seasonal rainfall overflow which in past years have proven a dangerous menace to the state. Henceforth the 885,000 acres of lakes and canals and levees included in the flood control program would provide a spawning and breeding

And that's how it happened to be on the picturesque south fork of the St. Lucie River where it flows through Martin County between Lake Okeechobee and the Florida lower east coast.

I had gotten light enough now to make out the dense tropic swamp that crowded in to the very edge of both shores. Tufted cabbage palms leaned far out over the placid, wind- ing river as if determined to break free from the thick mat of jungle and into the sunlit, white, crane-like birds—herons and egrets and others—could occasionally be seen flying over the tops of the trees in disturbed flight.

Boyd cut his motor off a narrow point where the current spun in silent eddies. "We'll try it here first," he called to me softly across the water. "I've seen some prize fish taken at this spot."

I watched him tie on what looked like a Dalton Special. He brought his glass casting rod forward and over so that the plug shot out in a long arc, landing with a gentle plunk in the misty morning stillness. When the ripples had widened a dozen feet from the lure he twitched it. Then he twitched it again. Then he reeled it in—untouched—just as I could have predicted. I sighed. "You know how big a 5-pound bass is?" I asked him skeptically.

He nodded. "Yep."

"When I can get my closed fist into his mouth I usually figure he's a 5-pounder," I said, watching him closely.

"Yep."

"You even ought any size that size around here?"

He grinned. "What's the sense my answering that? You ain't gonna believe me anyway."

He had something there, all right. Nevertheless, I bent over my tackle box, trying honestly to select what would appear to be the best lure for this unknown river.

On the second cast something hit my deep-running plug. It wasn't a hard hit, just a vicious, brazen grab that tore the line off my reel too fast—and kept right on tearing it.

"Well, lookit now—our man's got him a fish," Al shouted.

"Hold his head up," Boyd yelled.

(Continued on Next Page)
"Did he drop his tackle box overboard?"
"Gled," I heard Boyd mutter to Al. "And we can't take it out."
A fish broke surface nearby. I picked up and cast about in the direction the fish took. The third, odd little tail accompanying each one.
I lowered the casting rod and turned to look at Al. "Gars," I announced caustically. "And I hope you weren't planning to think some of those grouchly old dames were swim in the same water."
Boyd shrugged and looked at Al. "I guess that kind of bass country."
"I reckon so," Al agreed gravely. "I hope you brought some extra shearpins with you."
"What's this calico bass mularky?" I asked trustfully.
"Only two places in Florida you can find 'em," said Al, and this is one of 'em."
"Sounds like tourist propaganda to me," I said. "Do you talking about spotted bass—a so-called Kentucky bass?"
"No, Calico bass."
"Well, it doesn't matter. I don't imagine I'll see any of them, spotted or otherwise."
Underway again, Boyd turned sharply into a small river, and we were soon largerly recollected. At times giant water oaks from both sides interfaced their branches in a thick canopy overhead, shutting out the sun. Sunken logs, the way-in trunk of palms that had long before fallen victim to rot or hurricane winds, lay crossword in the shallows waywatering.
"Look there," Boyd said, pointing to a 12-foot sunning itself on a muddy shallote. The black-bellied sunfish watched us for a second from atop glistening toothy jaws. Then the scaly body waddled awkwardly down into the water and sank from view...
We throttled down to slow trolling speed now, me duplicating exactly each maneuver of the lost boat. Fox undoubtedly knew his way in here... times he would speed up brieferly to gain momentum them quickly lift the Evinsrude's still-turning prop him the water just long enough to slide over some submerged obstruction. At other times he would find it necessary to stop altogether, poling a floating tine tree trunk out of the way so we could go..."We were in the middle country now such as I'd hold down... the idea still existed on the Florida east back bend being McClean's family of black oaters plus plow in the water. Air plants and wild orchids profusion among the trees. From the amanu from shallows pools and hidden lagoons stately wading heron watched us with beady, critical eyes..."How you like it?" Boyd called back to me, grinning broadly.
"I doubt a good sized bass could ever find his way in here... we'd run aground."
"Stop worrying about fish—they're here."
There was something in the way he said it that convinced he'd known all along we'd wind up back here. Picking up my spin rod I cast to a grassy hump alongside the far bank. No sooner had the plug chucked down than a V'd rippled out from the grass after it. There followed a sudden welter of spray as he came up through the surface. In his eagerness he tossed the plug high into the air and kept right on going, somersaulting end-over-end. Then he landed with a heavy, skittering splash and disappeared with an impetuous flip of the tail.
"A bass," I blurted. "A green-backed, heavy-belled bass..."
Boyd chuckled. "A Calico bass, he said. "And hardly a fair-sized one at that."
At sight of the fish aerocast we suddenly became some true outdoorsmen with but a single exciting thought: big fish were here. And there was nothing to prevent us from enjoying the supreme thrill of catching them. Al cast into a seeded pool on the near side of a half-submerged palm top and nothing happened. Hardly... ten seconds later Boyd cast to the same spot and another husky bass leaped clear of the water with his red and white plug clamped firmly in his big jaws. He was a fine specimen, dark green across his glinting back and shading to lighter green spots along the side above the deep, snow-white belly. Once he was safely in the boat Boyd held the strung fishing by the lower lip, paralyzing the underslung jaws, causing them to open wide. "Here—double up your fish," he challenged me.
"I did— and it slid in easily... You asked me back there if I couldn't tell a 5-pounder," he chided. "Well... this fellow is a baby. Fish twice this heavy are commonplace on the St. Lucie. Not long ago a fellow took a 12-pounder. And occasionally you hear of a 30-pounder..."
My arm was shaking as I cast out again. I watched nervously as the Danson landed with a little splash, then lay there innocently. If glaring, unseen eye... contemplating it I could expect violent action at any instant now... Nothing happened. Instead, Boyd nailed a small one almost alongside his boat. Then, to further unnerve me, just as I was about to reel Al hung a third fish."

(Continued from Page 16)
The biggest mystery about photography is why people won’t read and follow the simple directions that come with all photographic supplies.

The G.I. dressed in fatigue, walked with head down, picking up and (after a brief glance) discarding little pieces of paper. As he dropped each piece, he would shake his head sadly before moving on. Time and again, he had been called on the carpet at company headquarters because of this odd behavior. At these sessions, he would offer no explanation, merely saying that he felt he had to examine each piece of paper that he saw. As there was no Regulation to cover this sort of conduct, the high brass was in a tizzy. They commandeered the G.I. to stop his looking, but to no avail—he wouldn’t stop, and he offered no explanation. The end was inevitable. He was called to an official inquiry and, after a brief examination, was discharged from military service according to "Section 8." As he was handed the discharge paper, his head came up, his face brightened, and he shouted, "Yes—yes! This is the one I’ve been looking for!"

This was a favorite story in the army during the last war and, as stories go, probably had some basis of truth behind it. At any rate, it emphasizes nicely that while little pieces of paper may look alike, they can be very different in both meaning and importance.

One of the greatest tragedies of modern manufacturing and merchandising is that, unlike the paper picking G.I., most people can’t recognize which paper they should throw away and which they should keep. Practically everything we buy comes complete with a little piece of paper. Practically everyone ignores it, usually throwing it away from the protective wrapping. This indifference to instructions and suggestions from the manufacturer not only results in needless loss of millions of dollars’ worth of equipment annually thru improper use and maintenance but, in many instances robs the user of his chance of getting the full potential from his purchase.

About the only product I can think of that always has its instructions carefully read is a doctor’s prescription.

It wouldn’t surprise me if even the modern occasionally have trouble in this direction. Perhaps the seeming determination to ignore advice in this respect is rooted in our adult reluctance to assume the role of the student. Whatever the reason, it is a very expensive characteristic.

In the outdoor world, we have more than our share of trouble just because few will read that little piece of paper. Let’s examine a few of the more common examples. Fishing tackle is a fertile field to demonstrate this failure.

Artificial lures almost always come packed with complete instructions for use. Having a good lure is no guarantee that you can consistently catch fish with it. Every lure was made to be used in a certain way and under certain conditions. The manufacturer spent many thousands of dollars in research to determine just how to make his product respond with predesigned action, when retrieved and used in a prescribed manner. All of this is usually explained on the little piece of paper that comes inside the tube or box in which the lure is packed. Using a lure without being armed with this knowledge is like shooting big game without knowing the expected performance of cartridges—it can be done, but the results are apt to be unfortunate.

Another incredible example is the widespread disregard for the printed instructions packed in reel holders. Reel manufacturers go to extreme lengths to provide a complete blueprint for the successful operation and maintenance of their products, all of which is usually ignored by the purchaser. If all the trouble and good and bad times caused by uninformed use of fishing reels were put into one package, it would make the United Nations Grievance Committee look like a Sunday school pull. Most of this could be avoided if the suggestion on that little piece of paper were followed.

Perhaps one of the more glaring examples of failure to heed manufacturers’ instructions in outdoor photography. Cameras, flash bulbs, and other equipment are packed with little pieces of paper that contain gold mines of basic and essential information. Simple as modern cameras are, they require a certain amount of cooperation from the user to produce good pictures. I am firmly convinced that anyone can take sharp, clear, well-composed pictures, suitable for enlargement, merely by using the simplest of equipment as directed.

Cameramen come with booklets enclosed in the packages, which explain in detail every facet of the camera’s operation and purpose. There is no need to be in the dark about the camera’s potential or its limitations. Flash bulbs come packed in a carton that carries simple instructions for proper use printed on the outside. Roll film comes packed with a little piece of paper folded and wrapped around the end of the film spool.

This little piece of paper in a film box is probably the most complete and valuable guide to good pictures ever devised. It is also, likely, the most ignored. I use Kodak Tri-X film for all my black and white work. Even for my professional use, all the information I have ever needed is contained on that little piece of paper. The Kodak instruction sheet tells all about the film’s characteristics, how to load the camera, and explains the lighting index settings when an exposure meter is used (I never bother with one). This paper gives proper exposures and shutter speeds for all outdoor exposures and shutter speeds for all outdoor exposures and lighting conditions and subjects. It list fitter suggestions and filter factors for both flash and normal lighting. Here you will find complete flash information, including types of bulbs and bulb preference for most shutter speeds for both between the lens and focal plane shutters. The matter of flash gun and reflectors of different size, finish, and brilliance is taken up and recommendations given.

For shutter bugs doing their own darkroom work, this same piece of paper gives all technical information on processing, developing, and printing with proper indications of time and temperature.

This is the little piece of paper that comes with every roll of film. If your pictures are something less than satisfactory, perhaps you should be reading it.

(Continued on Page 34)
The great outdoors offers unlimited recreational opportunities. Whether you find enjoyment afield or afloat, safety is a "law" to observe.

Have Fun—But Play It Safe

By ED LEMACK

Shells happen every day, and there would be no accidents as recorded but for fortunate detection when loading guns, or just plain good luck.

If a 28 gauge shell gets mixed with a batch of 30, chances are that a shooter loading his gun hurriedly will not notice that the smaller shell instantly drops out of sight into the cone of the gun’s chamber, and will unthinkingly put a proper size 20 gauge shell in top of it, in the mistaken belief that he has loaded his gun. If undetected before firing, the double load is sure to blow his gun apart.

The same can happen if a 20 gauge shell gets mixed with proper size 12 gauge loads.

Many 12 gauge guns will accept and fire 16 gauge size shells that get accidentally mixed with the 12s. When such occurs, the smaller 16 gauge shell will bulge and split along its case or through its brass head, or both, releasing dangerous powder gases in the rear—right in the shooter’s face.

Regardless of correct gauge, don’t shoot smokeless powder loads in ancient shotguns made to handle black powder. You may or may not get by. It only takes one shell to burst a barrel of these old-time tensile strength guns; that shell can be your first and your 600th!

Weak receivers (common in foreign military actions), sand, mud or heavy grease in the barrel, and poor fitting of parts can also result in weapon breakups. Make sure that your firearm is maintained in good mechanical condition, that its bore is kept free of obstructions and that it consumes proper ammunition.

When shopping for the comp fire, be clear away brush and overhead branches that might interfere with the swing of the gun.

When the comb rests on the forward edge of the receiver, the fact that an archer must keep his bow under control and near identity by nature and built before he can expect to shoot it at accurately.

Even so, the sport has its bad moments. Incorrect stringing of a bow can cause it to snap back and strike the archer in the face, or a finger nail can be pinched by the bowstring as the end loop is slipped over the bow-nock, under tension.

When not actually dangerous, twisting the forearm of the bow-holding arm in line with the bowstring will result in stinging pain by the former for the latter. Wear a protective, leather arm guard.

Bows can break as a result of "fatigue," being overloaded with and without a fitted arrow and by attendant breakage of the bowstring.

Imperfections in equipment should be watched for and such defective items discarded. Small cracks in bows and in arrows, loose arrow points, rough sections in an arrow’s fletching, and fraying boarings, should be cause for concern. Examine archery tackle frequently.

Although accident records show that an archer seldom shoots another archer accidentally, he may suffer self-inflicted wounds. Overdrawing an arrow may (Continued on Next Page)
Standing up in a boat to cast can result in loss of balance and a splashing full overboard.

Luckily, this fisherman had the Fisherman Editor of FLORIDA WILDLIFE along as steadying influence during a precautions moment of unbalance.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

burns by wearing canvas gloves when handling the coffee pot, kettle, and hot pans. If you forget and get burned, treat the burned area with Unguentine from the first aid kit, or any clean grease such as butter or lard, and bandage lightly. Avoid breaking any formed blisters; the unbroken skin represents a protective covering against dirt and germs.

Cuts from sharp knives and carelessly handled axes can be more serious, so their prevention is better than treatment.

Axes and hunting knives not kept in their sheaths should be stuck in a log end—axes with handles up, knives with their blades facing down.

Sip swas under the curve of a log where their teeth can’t snag on clothing of a member of the camping party, and where they won’t be tripped over, if they are not kept in canvas sheaths between periods of use.

Paint tent pegs white and tie white rags on guy ropes to prevent stubble when moving about the camp site after dark. Also take time to chop away all root loops and remove loose stones and broken bottles in the immediate area, when first making camp—which should preferably be pitched on high, dry ground and free from hazards of dead trees that might fall and set a spark to contract lightning.

Insect bites of various kinds and common and some of the most irritating include: Squeezing out the poison of the poison ivy by pinching while compressing out the poison as well as compressing wet with sand usually reduce swelling and discomfort quickly. Lack of a first aid mud poultice will alleviate pain and swelling.

Mosquitoes, blackflies and midges can be discouraged by spraying the netting every three times a day with DDT, Tetrachlor, and Trak, and there are a number of good commercial insecticides that can be safely rubbed on the person as protection during the hours spent away from camp.

Acquired chiggers can give an outdoorsman a fit. Once the tiny chiggers have attached themselves to the skin and established their own camps—a fact made poignantly known by intense itching at the spot—they can be difficult to eradicate. Prevention is easier.

Prepared sulphur dusted area lower pants legs, ankles, wrists, inside socks and along the waist will keep chiggers away.

Chiggers that just begin to attach themselves to the person to be routed by promptly taking a soapy bath, using Parke-Davis germicidal soap or Dial and a lather brush. Those insects that have already buried themselves in the skin can be killed with an applied drop of ether or lighter fluid. Hold your finger on the spot for a few seconds in the applicating solution just as fective gases.

For $100,000 to a million Americans annually suffer from hayfever, colds, redness, swelling and pimpls that result from contact with the spores of a three-leaved poison ivy.

It is necessary to cover any animal contact with the soapy water. The oily sap from crushed leaves, clothing be picked up on the clothing and by running the camping gear on a clean blanket, or other substance, clothing and bedding down in soft ground. It’s no joke to sprain an ankle, especially far from camp or company.

Keep an alert eye for snakes. You may never see one; again, you may be one of the several hundred cases of snakebite that occur each year in the United States. The diamondback rattlesnake and the common copperhead, particularly, pack a powerful punch, and bites are fatal in the ratio of one in ten, statistics show. Snake bite kits are compact and efficient; carry one and know how to use it.

Getting lost can be merely annoying and unnecessarily fatiguing or it can be a matter of life and death; it all depends on existing weather conditions and attendant circumstances. You won’t get lost if you carry a compass and a map and know how to read both. The important thing is not to get paniced when you first come to the realization that you are lost.

When this writer was a boy he had a pre-school hour work line up with a neighbor, and the first catch was a skunk. In attempting to get the animal in a box, the neighbor got the skunk and the boy received the full treatment. Despite a soap bath and a change of clothing, his presence was a well kept secret until the night before the call! Strong cider vinegar is the answer to skunk odor; it quickly neutralizes the odor on body and clothing, and usually on first washing. The remedy also works on unfortunate hunting dogs that run afoul of a “Hyenaad Kitty.”

Getting caught in a sudden storm while fishing or cruising Florida Gulf, lower Key or large lakes, waters in a small boat can be anything from temporary and minor discomfort to a serious boating mishap. However, the record shows that just plain failure to exercise common sense is the greatest cause of boating accidents. Overloading a craft, carrying unbalanced loads, reckless operation, standing up in small boats and similar misjudgments risk far ahead of encountered storms as cause of boating accidents. Thanks down on a horsey affair is now a national campaign—also the reason why there are so many new boating laws.

Barefooters have to watch out for floating debris, obstructions not only submerged and low-lying waves that momentarily swing them toward buoys and piers.

Skin-diners have to be alert against the danger of being cut by boat propellers that pass between. Their greatest danger is personal (Continued on Page 35)
FISHING FLORIDA'S FRESH WATERS

By JIM REED

Over one third of the registered fresh water fishing camps in Florida are located in the twelve county system that makes up the Central Region. At that, there are countless lakes and streams that have not a single camp or commercial boat landing on their shores. It is a big chunk of real estate that is encompassed by the Commission's Central Region boundaries. There are twelve counties in the region: Citrus, Lake, Sumter, Marion, Volusia, Putnam, St. Johns, Brevard, Flagler, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole.

Approximately 200 miles of the St. Johns River winds through this section of the state. The Kissimmee River stretches from Kissimmee to Lake Okeechobee through the top of the Everglades. Grazing cattle and marsh birds far outnumber man in this outdoor wonderland.

Boaters can launch their craft at the city dock in Winter Garden, cross Lake Apopka to Lakes Bodair, Carlton, and Dora, hence through the Dora Canal to Lake Uvits and into Lake Griffin and on to the Oklawaha River which empties into the St. Johns River near Welaka some 185 miles from the starting point. The region is bordered on the west by the Gulf of Mexico with its creeks and rivers piercing the land. It is bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and its inlets and bayous.

There is to be found in this area the type of fishing required to suit the taste of any angler. Fly fisherman, bait casters, spin fishers and cane poles all can find just the spot suited to their piscatorial whims within a few miles of practically any spot in the region.

D.C. Land, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission’s manager for the Central Region, has fished in this part of the state for eighteen years. Quite naturally he has a number of productive places on his personal hot spot list.

His favorite fishing grounds lie between Lake Dexter and Woodruff in the St. Johns chain. Land fishes with both cane pole and rod and reel. He says the red secret of fishing this section is getting the bait under the over hanging limbs where the good ones lurk. He catches bass, bream, and crappie in the same general area. "Speck heaven," he calls the Dexter Woodruff area, and with good reason for here a three pound crappie is not at all uncommon.

Fishermen will find convenient a public ramp at Astor on State Road 40. Fishing camps in the vicinity provide boats, bait, and motors, and guides are available.

Another spot D.C. rates highly as a fish producer is the Withlacoochee River. He gives the nod to that portion of the stream from Rutland Bridge near Bushnell to Ross Bridge located between Ocala and Hernando. Limit catches of black bass of all sizes are practically the rule here. Both live shiners and plugs take their toll of the largemouths. Exploration of Land’s tackle box revealed a battery of top water Mir-O-Lures and Johnson spoons—a good enough commentary on what an experienced angler considers "big guns" for working over the finsters of his particular bailiwick. Camps at both bridges give ready access to this section and are equipped to supply most fishing needs.

Doyle Tindale, Area Supervisor for Marion, Volusia, Brevard, and Seminole Counties, is a wading fly fisherman, but he will take to boat with rod and reel when fish are on the prod in the Homosassa, Chassahowitzka, or Crystal Rivers. Doyle likes this river fishing but registered a mild complaint; he has considerable trouble keeping a plug on his line—the tarpon persist in ripping his lures and make off with much valuable hardware.

These three rivers are located in Citrus County. They are short spring-fed streams which flow into the Gulf of Mexico approximately nine miles from their respective sources. Salt water species from the Gulf find the clear cool waters attractive thus adding a prospective bonus to the angler’s creel.

All necessary facilities are available to sportsmen visiting the area. If a person prefers real luxury that can also be found at Port Paradise off U.S. 19 between Homosassa Springs and Crystal River. A 2300 foot airstrip is maintained by the County for the convenience of flying fishermen.

Tindale’s favorite fly fishing is in the small sand inlets in the Ocala National Forest and on the upper St. Johns River around Hathill Camp. Bass, bream, and crappie rise eagerly to popping bugs and streamers, with the help of the right switch at the right time.

(photo continued on next page)
These lakes are easily reached by car from Orlando. There are no commercial camps nor regular boat ramps here due to the relatively small size of the waters. Tindale says he gets the best results by wading around the lakes and working his lure in next to the grassy edges.

Roscio Hamilton, Area Supervisor for Osceola, Orange, Lake, South Brevard, and Sumter Counties prefers to fish Lake Panasoffkee but admits his main reason is simply because that body of water is close to his home in Bushnell. Shellcrackers and bass take the minnow here but all species of fresh water fish to be found in the Withlacoochee River area gather in the lake at times where anglers find them ever willing in the game of matching wits.

Many comfortable fish camps offering full facilities to the sportmen are available around the lake.

Roscio also points to the Kissimme River and the chain of lakes along with Lakes Griffin and Harris as likely spots. He hastens to add that there are hundreds of other good fishing waters in his area.

Lake Apopka is well on its way to reclaiming its former glory as Florida's top crappie producing lake. The Commission's Fisheries Management Division last year launched an extensive gizzard shad control program to start the formerly fabulous fishing hole on the comeback trail. The city of Orlando is near Lake Apopka and offers night life to the more energetic sportmen.

The Kissimme Chain is a good area for fishing-camping trips. Commercial fish camp accommodations in this section are few and far between. The annual Boatacade from Kissimme to Okeechobee is the only concentrated effort of consequence of the many water seers during the whole year.

Carlie Hall is Area Supervisor for the St. Johns River section in Putnam, Flagler, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. His men patrol the waters constantly checking thousands of fishermen annually. Carlie says fishing on the St. Johns is always good. Shellcracker beds covering as much as five acres have been reported from Lake George. Crappie, bass, bluegills, and other fresh water species range from the mouth of the river at Jacksonville to the source in the marshes of Brevard County. A number of these species work up into the St. Johns offering a bit of spice to the usual fresh water angler. Striped bass and croakers are quintessences of these bonus species.

American Shad are a definite seasonal attraction especially in the vicinity of Lemon Bluff. Lake Crescent joins the St. Johns through Dunn's Creek and offers good fishing the year around.

Putnam County is called the Bass Capital of the World and the area is an apt one. Lumbermen come to note on live bait and artificial lures. Fish camp accommodations to fit all pockets are available in this area.

The large bodies of water get most play, at least verbally, than the smaller ones but Regional Wildlife Officers inform the traveling angler that he is missing a good bet if he passes up the numerous lakes, ponds and canals along our highways. If you are tired of driving, park under a good shady tree and hook up for old tackle for a few casts. You won't be amazed by the results.

AROUND THE STATE

GCF Award Presented—Jim Ricekastle, Regional Manager of the Great and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Northwest Region, was so proud to present the Commission's Northwest Regional Award for successful development of lake and stream fishing. The award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to freshwater angling in Florida. The award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to freshwater angling in Florida.

GUANA RIVER PROJECT—A project to turn 5,000 acres of land in the Guana River area, located in the northern section of St. Johns County, into a state and national park has been completed. The project, started last year by the Guana and Fresh Water Fish Commission, will turn a ten-mile-long section into a Guana Management Area which will provide public hunting and fishing grounds when it is opened to the future. The lot, from which the project was taken, prevents a salt water flow into the established fishing area for ducks and geese.
TROTTLIN G

There's more to this time-honored sport than most fishermen realize

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

A trol ine catch can run the gamut from small bug heads to bragging-size blue and yellow (fished) cats.

Basically, a trol in e is nothing more than a long strong cord staked at either end, with dog lines or staggings, as they are called, dangling off the main line. These staggings are tipped with formidable hooks, each covered with a generous gob of bait.

There are naturally expert trol ine fishermen, but anyone can succeed at this time-honored sport simply by locating a likely looking spot and stretching a baited line across it. A wily bass or trout may outwit a fisherman, but an old catfish depends on awkward streamers to grow to newspaper-story proportions.

Trotlining is the best way I know of catching a big catfish, and this omnipresent hope of a trophy catch is one of the values that gives the sport its lure transcending time and season.

Inquire of dock owners or local fishermen to find a good spot to place your line. If no expert advice is available, search for a likely location.

Catfish prefer sluggish waters with a faint half-dead current. During spring and fall, the main line should be placed in shallows, about three- to five-feet deep, the line set at different depths in the water. Catfish migrate out of placid pools into shallower and cooler depths.

A productive spot is across the mouth of a stream where it enters a lake, or in a deep back-water of a stream. One end should be tied to some solid object on shore. On a river or stream, the other end may stretch from bank to bank, but in large lakes it preferably is anchored some distance from shore. A buoy made from a sealed gallon can or some similar container should mark this anchor where the line can readily be spotted at night. This marker also serves as a warning sign to bass anglers in the area. Place the line at a tangent to shore rather than straight out where the water depth will be fairly constant.

The primary strand should be of heavy cord while the staggings can be of lighter line. A refinement is a long coil spring inserted someplace along the main line. This allows the angler to "give" where a large fish can't get the leverage to snap a stagg ing. Staggings should be attached to the main line with barrel swivels, preventing hooked fish from twisting off. A swivel with a snap at one end is best where staggings can be removed when a line is not in use. This simplifies the setting of a line. By having metal ring tied to the main cord at intervals, it is a simple matter to clip on the staggings once the line is situated.

The hooks should be large, from 3/0 to 6/0, and forged of heavy gauge wire. An average stagg ing is roughly two-feet long. The distance between staggings is a matter of personal choice, but I like to space my hooks about every three feet along the main line.

The maximum number of hooks allowed per line by state law is twenty-five.

Bait can be most any kind of dead matter, from chunks of meat to various home-made blood or commer cial stock concoctions. Catfish have been known to bite such unlikely things as ordinary household soap and strips of bacon.

Some fishermen bait not only the hooks, but also the surrounding waters. A burlap bag filled with beef bones from the butcher shop will attract catfish as will hogs of stale corn, coagulated blood and carto nseed livestock meal. Weight the sack of bait and drop it near your line. An anchor or two must be placed somewhere along the trol ine to sink baits to the desired depth. This weight can be fixed to a long stagg ing, and by simply varying the length of the line one can control the depth of the baits. Usually, a bait dangling a foot or so off bottom pays off best since catfish are characteristically scavengers and feed off insect larvae and decaying plant life along the river or lake floor.

Although most Florida waters are open to trot lining, there are places where it is prohibited. Better check the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's summary of fishing proclamations before setting a trol ine in strange waters.

Bait the line just as good as turtles, gars and other predator fish have slashed off with their feeding. The line should be "run" the first time about two to three hours later. A good trotliner checks his line and rebait at regular intervals throughout the night. This way there are more chances of catching fish, and those hooked won't have time to twist free.

A line can be baited either by pulling a boat along...

(Continued on Page 28)
There is nothing mysterious or very dangerous about the giant toad found in Florida.

It is probably most abundant in Mexico and partly in Texas. It is not found in the southern part of South America. Within this region it occupies a variety of situations: lowlands or uplands, wooded country or barren, wilderness areas or settled. It is as common about parks, lakes and gardens of the larger South American cities, and in such places it is usually valued for its insect-eating habits. The giant toads of Texas and Coahuila Mexico are a little different from those of, say, Colombia or the countries in the Philippines, Hawaii, Formosa, Tinian, Guam, northern Australia, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda, to name but a few places. Usually these big amphibians have been liberated in sugarcane fields, in an effort to keep down the many insects that attack this important crop.

So far as we know, the giant toad was first introduced into Florida during the early 1940's. An amusing episode relates to this amphibian in our state. Some time during the years of World War II, when our- ships were a bit restricted in the possibility of Nazi spies and invaders, certain residents of the Englewood area reported strange "code broadcasts" coming from underground tunnels and deep in the dirt. The circumstance was brought to the attention of the proper authorities, who investigated. Sure enough, one dark night they heard a remarkable rattling and clattering sound, coming in code-like bursts from the woods. A careful search revealed not a hidden transmitter, but a colony of giant toads, the males all "singing" loudly.

The males of most toads have a loud voice. The oak toad peeps, the southern toad emits a prolonged whistle, and Fowler's toad utters a sort of buzzing blast, but the males of the giant toad voice a kind of clatter or rolling trill. A group of giant toads, all in full chorus, remind us of so many woodpeckers hammering on a hollow tree. These particular toads had escaped from, or been liberated at, a nearby biological laboratory. We have heard of the Englewood colony lately, and wonder if this introduction proved unsuccessful.

As World War II continued to rage, much of our sugar supply was cut off by enemy submarines. The Florida cane became more and more important. A big sugar company decided to import giant toads into the state, hoping to increase sugar production by control of cane-destroying insects. In 1944, with the cooperation of the Air Force, a top priority plane loaded with giant toads was flown up from Argentina and liberated near Lake Okeechobee. We have not heard about these toads in recent years; perhaps they died out, also.

The giant toad was imported into the Miami area a few years ago by a company which dealt in South American wildlife. The amphibians probably came originally from Barraquilla, Colombia. When the company changed its location, it left behind a colony of the giant toad. The toads have survived the winters, and may have wandered some distance from the point of escape or liberation. The mating call of the giant toad has been heard in Miami; but, so far as we can learn, there is no indication that the species is successfully breeding in Florida.

As a matter of fact, the giant toad has been introduced into several other localities in the state, but it has always died out.

Now as to the venom. Almost all toads, giant or otherwise, are charac terized by two large glands on the back of its head, one behind each shoulder. These glands, which are modified salivary glands, contain a poison which is irritating to mammals and reptiles. Toads do not lose their venom with age, and it is a good idea not to handle them.
eye. This is true, for example, of our three native species. The glands produce chemicals which protect the toad from enemies. These chemicals are liberated when the toad is actually seized and hurt, as by some sharp-toothed animal. It is believed that the toxic substances are not voluntarily ejected into the air; rather, they are squeezed from the glands by the jaws of an attacking predator. The attacker, thus receiving the toxins directly into its mouth, is immediately discouraged from its efforts, and the toad is released. If the predator survives the experience, it may never tackle a toad again. Even our familiar southern toad is well protected in this way; while preyed on by a few creatures, it is always carefully avoided by many others. The giant toad, when injured, liberates a potent toxin which may even prove fatal to cats and small dogs. Large dogs become very sick after eating a giant toad, but generally recover in a day or so.

Handling—even rough handling—seldom if ever causes the giant toad to give off its protective secretion (unless, of course, the venom glands are actually mashed). On our trips to Central and South America, in search of reptiles and other wildlife, we have encountered hundreds of giant toads, which we have always caught by hand; and at the Reptile Institute we have handled hundreds more, experiencing no harmful effects.

Giant toads are not aggressive; they are among the gentlest of all creatures. They will not bite, and their toxic secretion is strictly for defense. If they bite toward a person or a dog, it is never with harmful intent. They do not recognize a person or animal as such, being responsive only to movement. If see a small moving object such as an insect, almost automatically they hop over and gobble it down; if they see a large moving object, such as a dog or a man, they either hop away or remain motionless in an effort to avoid detection. If cornered, they may take up a curious position with the head inclined in the direction of their attacker, and in this posture they may actually hop toward the enemy. Such actions may frighten the predator, and also present the venom glands for the attacker’s first bite in case the bluff does not succeed. But these actions are purely automatic and defensive; unless actually injured, the giant toad is just as harmless as our native species.

No doubt the full venom supply, if taken internally, would produce very serious illness; but no one is apt to eat this big, warty, disastrous amphibian! The only people exposed to “toad poisoning” are scientists, animal collectors and dealers, zoo keepers and the like—people who might accidentally squeeze a venom gland, or unack a specimen which had been mashed in transit. In such cases the symptoms may range from just a mild headache, to a very severe headache and accompanying nausea.

It may be mentioned in passing that the big Colorado River toad, Bufo alvarius, native to Arizona and adjacent areas, is just as toxic as the giant toad and perhaps more so. It has venom glands not only on the back of the head but also on the legs. Dogs have died after biting this amphibian; nevertheless it is welcomed as an insect-exter in most parts of its range.

Scientists and physicians are interested in the toxic secretions of the giant toad and other species in China, the skins of a certain big toad, Bufo sinensis, had long been valued as medicine, particularly for the treatment of heart disorders. At the time, American and European doctors thought that this was mere superstition; but chemical analyses revealed that the toad skins, or the glands thereof, contained a substance which acted like digitalis, a well-known heart stimulant. The substance was eventually isolated and attention was turned to other toads, including the giant toad, the glands of the latter yielded two digitalis-like compounds, one of them a powerful emetic, epinephrine (adrenaline), which stimulates the circulatory system and varies in some species, in a higher level of activity; and cholesterol, a substance also present in various human tissues and apparently a constituent of gall-stones. Thus the giant toad, and other toads, are imported into the United States for biological and chemical experimentation.

The life-history of the giant toad...

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(A good-natured giant toad plays dead when its belly is scratched.)

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Common Tern, Sterna hirundo

The white, forked tail of the "sea swallow" is one of the outstanding " trademarks" by which this fishing bird is readily identified. The orange-red bill, usually with black tip, and the blackish primary feathers are other points of distinction. In fall and winter plumage an area of black feathers extends around the back of the head. The bill is somewhat darker during the winter months and the legs change from vermilion to a paler, more orange hue with the advance of the season.

The Common Tern is known throughout the Temperate Zone of the Northern Hemisphere. It is a wide-ranging migrant along the Florida coast, especially on the Gulf side of the state. At least during earlier times some of these birds nested in the lower Keys. There have been recent nesting records from Florida but they are not numerous.

This species is one of the "fish finder" birds watched with great interest by salt water anglers. When a bluefish, mackerel and other game fish are working over the schools of small forage fishes and driving them toward the surface, the terns gather to share the banquet. The fishermen, seeing a canopy of milling terns, knows worthwhile quarry swims the waters in the immediate vicinity.

Forster's Tern, Sterna forsteri

During the winter season Forster's Terns are most likely to be seen in the state, their plumage is sufficiently distinctive to attract little difficulty in identification. At this time the undertail coverts and wings are white, the underbody and wings are white, the tail pale gray with a dark border. This species is very migratory and breeds in states for biological and experimental work.

The life-history of the giant toad...

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(Continued on Page 47)

FLORIDA BIRD LIFE
an insect eater. A skillful serial performer these terns are often over four miles deep from the stream of high speed traffic so near at hand. Sea beaches and small offshore islands are also favored nesting sites.

The nest itself is little more than a shallow depression on the ground, usually without a nest cup of plant fibers. The nest is 2 to 3 inches in size. The matchsticks are 100 feet distant, and the surroundings are difficult to see. This is the habitat of the species. Feeding badly during that period when style dependable to decorate ladies plumage of wild birds, the quilled terns have made good use of them during the years they have been studied.

The Least tern is a runner, deriving most of its food from the surface of the water. Small fish and crustaceans are the most important items of diet. Black tern, Chlidonias niger

This is one of the smallest of the terns, its total length varying about 9½ inches, but little more than the height of the Least tern. In addition to small size, other points of distinction include the relatively short, broad wings which are slanting above and somewhat lighter hand, and the short notched tail.

Nesting of this species takes place from the eastern central portion of Alaska and lower Mackenzie Territory southward at least as far as Colorado and Kansas. The nesting grounds are located from Mexico's west coast well down in South America.

The periods of migration are very numerous on both coasts. It also occurs to a lesser extent about some of the inland waters at this time. In the "handle" of northwest Florida inland-bound migrants may appear as spring.

Seasonally insects taken on the wing or plucked from the water's surface, or the vegetation or the water's surface provide much of the diet. Tadpoles, small fish, crustaceans of various kinds, and even frogs are taken. The opportunity presents itself. These terns are excellent diving birds, but they do not often dive very deep in pursuit of their prey. They seem to prefer to skim their food from the surface or take it in the air when possible.

In addition to a veritable wealth of "how to do it" information in the Complete Book of Fly Fishing, you'll enjoy many hours of sheer reading delight. Written by Joe Brooks, one of America's most vivid writers, you'll sit at ease in your armchair and experience many times over those glorious moments that make fly fishing the most satisfying and rewarding sport in the world!


With a 9½ inch summer, the Great Lakes offer a nearly year-round fishing for many species. The maps are well detailed, with special features for certain areas. These maps are also available in the South Central States.
EAR CARRIAGE

A mong many dour points in dog carriage is the standard of points laid down for every breed. It is particularly important for those breeds whose members would cause their ears erect, semi-erect, or (like a bulldog) in the peculiar attitude called "rose." A French Bulldog, for example, which does not carry its unique "bat" ears absolutely erect is disqualified from consideration in the breed. But a Collie which does is an anomaly. It's ears, when alert should be absolutely erect except the top fourth, which should tip or "break" forward. The ears of many terriers (though all breeds) should be erect at the base, then fold forward toward the eye, close to the cheek, with the top line of the fold well above the level of the skull. Since the requirements differ from breed to breed a prospective purchaser of any purebred dog should check the standard before selecting a dog of the breed of his choice.

Correct ear carriage is "bred in" to any well-bred dog, but however correct the bred-in potential, many ears will not finish correctly unless the dog and its ears receive special care. The tips of a Collie's ears may be lightly weighted, for example, to train them into position, or a Fox-terrier's ears taped until the correct fold is permanently attained. Some unassuming and often unrecognizable dogs have been known to use surgery to cause such a terrier's ear to fold as it should. Discovery by a judge of such tampering disqualifies the dog in the show.

Whatever its breeding, no dog's ears will be held correctly if the ear carriage has not been correctly nurtured. Too many of certain ingredients in a dog's diet will tend to make the ears excessively stiff, too panic when underwater eel or equipment fouls are gale. Klein's ever warn dying, but similar active in a team activity, with ready to give a helping hand else.

The same buddy system produces the hazard factor. Fortunately, that situation is very high, to trap inside air and proba borrowed for his own survival. If there are only few, they can do it efficiently. At the ocean floor, especially, plays for keeps. On the rolling tides of force, and on a lazy incoming tides that tempt a surfer to linger too long.

Beware Tularemia -- Hunter's Disease

By RAYMOND SCHUESSLER

Since sick rabbits and other animals are more easily caught than well ones, it is not a rare thing for hunters to become infected with tularemia.

Though most victims ultimately recover from this disease, it is a painful and sometimes dangerous ordeal which can be prevented if the right precautions are known.

Tularemia is acquired by handling the carcass or eating the undercooked flesh of infected animals, or by being bitten by an insect which has previously fed on a diseased animal. The disease is rarely if ever carried from person to person.

The wild animals which most frequently suffer from tularemia are rabbits, but many other kinds of wild animals have been found infected or are susceptible to this disease. Determining of a human case is that the person has handled the carcass of an infected animal. Besides hunters, butchers, cooks and housewives have often been infected. The insect vectors are not so common except in a few localities. A biting fly known as the deer fly, and certain kinds of ticks are the most common carriers.

There is usually an ulcer at the place where the infection entered the body, on the hands or eyes which are contaminated. The common symptoms of tularemia can cause excruciating pain.ive care when removing the hook, and when using waters known to be inhabited by: rice and species of the

Portuguese man-of-war.

The wandering fisherman has to be careful not to lose his footing in fast water, avoid sudden bottom drop or deep holes, shifting sand and rocks, all of which can create a dangerous situation. (A more subtle and almost inaudible danger is the presence of surf and inlet fishing). These are the biggest reasons heavy boot hips can be life preserving the ones who have lost their footing in a fast, and fallen flat will reach the main stream and become yo-yo's, and will be high, to trap inside air and produce a nice, big buoyancy. Assuming that the rocks have been filled with water get rid of them, you can do very little swimming with them full.

The ocean surf, especially, plays for keeps. On the rolling tides of force, and on a lazy incoming tides that tempt a surfer to linger too long.

- Corduroy strips of construction, brown strips that have been worked into eel and eel have been in some words of a quick brown fox. Forgive him, if you desire to do away with eel and eel that have been made to live in the eel's belly.

The sluggish surf on an offshore shoal, the eel can be a killer. This fact brings to mind an experience of a lone surfer who wasolated from the shore and made to live in the eel's belly.

On a slow, rolling tide at low water to reach a dry island offshore and east in the deep water beyond. The time was early in the afternoon and the offshore fishing good.

By the time the combination of approaching darkness and the steadily rising tide demanded an immediate return to the mainland, the shallow shoreline was nowhere to be seen in the rays of an eulogizing flashlight. Only by good luck and having taken the easiest possible retreat route located, such was the case on the offshore shoal. That surfer was the only one of 25 who was lost; details are still vivid in mind.

Obviously, risks exist in just about any type of outdoor sport, just as they can be logically present in everyday home life.

Whatever your favorite sport activity, have your fun but play it safe. You'll be around longer—to enjoy it more—if you do.

- Corduroy strips of construction, brown strips that have been worked into eel and eel have been in some words of a quick brown fox. Forgive him, if you desire to do away with eel and eel that have been made to live in the eel's belly.
TROLLING

(Continued from Page 29)

the main line, passing to bait each hook, or being deep. There are many tricks of the trade, just as with other phases of fishing. One fisherman I know ties one end of his line to a limber limb on shore and attaches a small bell to the treble hook. He sleeps nearby and jingling of the bell awakens him when a fish is on. Another has a small flashlight attachment which blinks when the line quivers. A neighbor of mine regularly tends a trolling line on a near lake throughout most of the year. He baits the line each evening after working hours and checks it early the following morning. He has always got fresh fish in his deep freezer. During the hot dog days of summer when other fishing is in the doldrums, trolling continues to produce. In fact, July and August and September are three of the better months for trolling fish. There are various ways of removing the fish off a trolling line. One is to use a large dip net. Another is to run one hand through the cat's gills before unhooking it with the other. Never make the mistake, though, of putting your hand in a big catfish's mouth. It takes hold tenaciously with its sandpaper-like teeth and sometimes you have to pry it loose. If you hook a really big cat, I'd suggest that you summon help before attempting to remove it off the line. A friend once caught a large yellow cat that weighed somewhere in the neighborhood of thirty pounds, but when he tried to wrestle it into the boat it bounced wildly, and I had a buddy's arm as it knocked him up against the tumbled heavily. We corralled the sharp angler in a catfish's role game regardless and beat it back behind either. My wounds are painful accomplished by swelling. It is a good idea to carry elixir of piers to nip off the pincers or strip any winding the fish.

A catfish is easily cleaned, having its head with a good cord. Cut completely around body with a sharp knife and pulling the skin and slit the bone. Then catch a loose end with flat-nose pliers and pull. The hide slips right off. The side of a cat is a beautiful pinkish. Boneless steaks can be cut large catfish by filleting along sides. Smaller fish are best prepared by filleting out the backbone leaving two firm boneless steaks. Roll these fillets in yellow corn meal and fry to a rich, golden brown in a deep skillet sitting with bubbling hot lard or bacon drippings. You'll be addicted for life.

I took another, this one only slightly smaller. Then I put down the rod with an effort. "Look, fellows," I gasped. "If I don't get some pictures of these leaping fish no one will ever believe it." The others were perfectly willing to put on an exhibition. And as I hopped excitedly from boat to bank, from boat to shore and back, Bob Fox purposely filled me in on a few of the shooting tips.

Our home state, it seems, with its 30,000 named lakes and innumerable rivers, streams and creeks, is a boat and a boat of a greater fresh water system than any other. And though our waters swam more and bigger boat than bass could be found nowhere else in the nation. During 1946 finest year for which complete figures are available (over 22 million pounds of largemouths were taken), Florence a — an average catch of the for each licensed boatman in the state. And these figures did not take into consideration the large number of unlicensed anglers. There were over 15 and over 65 and one can only who require no license when they confine fishing to their home counties.

"I believe you are right. It is acommandant."

There's only one thing left that worries me," I told Bob after a look at the lake. The Caloos is the fall Pseudoras alviger Equation, which is another way of saying Black Crappie. One that is how you do it. The Caloos is the fall Pseudoras alviger Equation, which is another way of saying Black Crappie. The Caloos is the fall Pseudoras alviger Equation, which is another way of saying Black Crappie. One that is how you do it. Caloos is the fall Pseudoras alviger Equation, which is another way of saying Black Crappie. One that is how you do it.

"No, they sure exist," I agreed with equal solemnly.

But then I am. I am just a few miles from the fall Pseudoras alviger Equation, which is another way of saying Black Crappie. One that is how you do it.

HIGH WATER LEVELS IMPROVE FISHING

In the old-time fishermen and modern fisheries biologists agree that high water levels usually mean high fish production and good fishing. This applies new and newly refined lakes, according to C. H. Heine, chief fisheries management division, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. During the recent Florida drought, most severe in 63 years, there was concern over the problems of rearing gamefish populations when high water levels returned. It was generally accepted that a large amount of re-stocking of fingerling fish might be necessary.

The problems haven't come true. Nature is restocking in their own fashion as water levels return to Florida's lakes. As the lakes began refilling with the end of the drought in 1937, it was found, in almost all instances, that restocking with hatchery fish was unnecessary.

Where lakes went almost dry, there was actually a sufficient gamefish population in the remaining pools to naturally repopulate the lake as high water levels returned.

In few cases of completely dried-up lakes, the fish returned with the flowing waterbodies. Small fingerling gamefish will swim upstream in running water bodies only an inch or so deep, even though such water bodies disappear within a matter of days. Although many species of fish may be stranded as water bodies recede, enough get into newly filled ponds and lakes to serve as a nucleus for the basic fish population.

In the case of refilled lakes, the rising waters often cover the usual dense stand of vegetation that has developed and the vegetation decays to add to the fertility of the water. This allows maximum reproduction of fish for a number of years.

Given a good food supply and a minimum fish population, it is only a matter of time before a lake will be "filled" by fish. One medium-sized female black bass may lay 10,000 eggs, while a female perch may lay 20,000 eggs. One female bream has been known to spawn four times in one year — a potential of 80,000 eggs.

For comparison, the average hatchery live-fish truck can transport 50,000 fingerling fish in one load.

Generally, hatchery raised fish are useful only in the case of created non-natural lakes and ponds such as dam reservoir lakes and farm fish ponds where no basic fish population exists — or where existing fish populations have been removed by use of chemical or by draining where there is no natural watershed.

It is a well-known angling popularity that fishing success in new waters increases rapidly after the first year. As the basic fish population reproduces and expands to fill the water void, fishing success increases rapidly. Wonderful fishing will hold true for four to ten years, and then taper off rapidly, to a lower success level as the fish population becomes stabilized. If pollution or other undesirable factors, enter the water, fishing success may then worsen rapidly.

With the return of near-normal water levels in almost all Florida lakes fishermen need only wait for Nature to improve fishing success. Such improvement may occur in a matter of weeks or months.

It is true that some lakes become unbalanced, such as Lake Apopka's 85 percent gizzard shad population, and the techniques of fisheries management become extremely valuable in bringing gamefish populations back into proper balance. Such imbalances may result in increased, excessive water vegetation, improper drainage and water control, and similar factors.

But, in most of Florida's warm fresh waters, Nature will do the job with only an occasional assist from man.

The Commission's fisheries management division has predicted that the coming year will produce some of the finest Florida fishing in many years.

NEXT MONTH

Rules and Regulations for the 1958-59 Hunting Season

September, 1958
Southeast is with us again, gang. This means that fall is here and back to all those who got adjusted dishes. It is sadful that anyone attending camp could not have gone home without gaining some weight.

From the many reports we have had about the food, we feel justly proud that ours was the very best. We salute Mrs. Virginia Westphal, Mrs. Hattie Bryden, Mrs. June Kenyon, and Jimmy Miller for their part in making this operation so successful. Food that's wholesome and nutritious makes good campers. Our kitchen is open all times. The staff not only prepares the kind of dishes boys and girls like but they also keep an immaculate galley—cleanliness is the password.

The Milk Program participated in this year for the second time allowed us to give more milk to each camper. This program is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture's Food Division.

The counseling staff this year totaled 23-12 Senior Counselors, including the Director and his Assistant. A staff of 13 Junior Counselors participated this year had more fun and learned more than ever before. That's what we want. Better camping periods for all boys.

The kitchen staff this past summer prepared the most tasty and the least regretting dishes. It is sadful that anyone attending camp could not have gone home without gaining some weight.

All water sports activities were under the supervision of Mr. W. W. MacInnis. Other qualified lifeguards were on hand at all times. We feel that the protection, the buddy system was used. We feel that all in this year's encampment was water, sport, fun and a great time. We hope that you had an opportunity to attend and participate in the many activities offered by each camp. In the next issue of Florida Wildlife Magazine we will give you the total number of boys and girls who attended this summer camp.
THE GIANT TOAD

(Continued from Page 32)

is much like that of our native species. The adults avoid the heat of the day, resting in shallow burrows or beneath logs, rocks and leaf litter. Toward evening or during cloudy spells, they emerge and begin to snap up beetles, bugs, roaches, mole-crickets, moths, slugs, snails and the like. One toad may stuff itself with hundreds of insects. Rain or mist stimulate the males to gather around pools and puddles. Their cluttering calls attract other males, and also the females. The latter deposit their numerous eggs in the water. These eggs are contained in long strings of jelly. After three or four days they hatch into tiny black tadpoles. The tadpoles live in the water for about 45 days, during which time they grow, absorb the tail, and sprout legs.

Then they emerge as miniature toadlets, to spend the rest of their days on land. (This life-history explains why toads are called amphibians. Like most members of the Class Amphibia, they begin life in the water, but eventually lose their gills and become capable of life on land.)

The adults of the giant toad are well protected from many predators, but the eggs and tadpoles are vulnerable. Also, the eggs are deposited in very shallow pools which dry up before the tadpoles can transform. Furthermore, toads from the true toad family need year-round warm water as a start supply of insects. The tadpoles and young adults are sensitive to chilling; and the larger adults, while capable of surviving spells of cold weather, become inactive when winter winds are severe. These circumstances may help to explain why this big amphibian has not thrived in Florida.

FISHING

(Continued from Page 7)

fly fisherman's development. Some fly rod men reach a certain stage and stick there, considering that level to be the very end. Perhaps this is fortunate for their peace of mind. Less fortunate anglers continue to develop to other levels. I served my time at the "featherweight" stage and have now reached a moderate plateau, where I hope I can stay awhile.

I'll not try to persuade anyone to give up the heavy, 9 or 9½ foot rod weighing 6½ to 7½ ounces. I'll only observe that unless the user of such a rod is a large-size man who keeps in perfect physical condition, he'll either change to lighter tackle or take up golf.

I use my Medalist Reel on a South Bend Rod No. 3270. This rod is 9 feet long, of 2-piece, Hollow Glass construction. It weighs 6 ½ ounces and sells for $16.00. This is about the size of a rod, designed for salt-water fishing. It is stainless steel equipped and in every way I know, it is completely adequate for the job it was built to do.

Here, again, we touch on the realm of snobbery and pride of ownership. There are rods in this category on the market at almost every price level up to $150.00. Many of them are beautiful examples of the rod-maker's craft and should not be dismissed lightly on price alone, because each of the intangible qualities inherent in such a rod has a value that only the purchaser can judge for himself, but for my own use, the $16.00 No. 3276 fills the bill.

I have written this fly tackle piece hoping it may serve as a practical guide to the prospective buyer of fly tackle for all-around, Florida use. The two outfits I have described as my own favorites are the result of selection based on many years of fly fishing experience. This does not mean they will suit everyone just as well as they do me. A person of each branch of sport during the years and mental processes, all dictating to a degree the type of tackle that will suit him best.

By the same token, I am not implying that the tackle I use is the only tackle that will meet the requirements discussed here. I say this is the only tackle that I am familiar enough with to recommend.

Now that the mad flood of spinning and spincasting has slowed to a steady flow, the spell of the bass is, again, winning its charm. The fledgling fly fisherman today has a wonderful array of conflicting array of tackle awaiting his informed choice. I hope this article will help by providing a starting point for his search.